

NEWS RELEASE

**OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS**

**RONALD J. TENPAS
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY**

Nine Executive Drive, Fairview Heights, Illinois 62208, Telephone (618) 628-3700

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SILEC PRESIDENTIAL AWARD PRESENTED TO RON SHOWNES

United States Attorney Ronald J. Tenpas announced today that Ron Shownes received the Presidential Award from the Southwestern Illinois Law Enforcement Committee. The award is presented annually to the individual who has most advanced the cause of cooperative law enforcement during the preceeding year. Mr. Shownes is the Law Enforcement Coordinator for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Illinois.

Mr. Shownes was presented the award for his contributions to law enforcement efforts in several areas. Some of his recent contributions include:

- a.) Organizing and presenting Anti-terrorism programs and training;
- b.) Rendering advice and assistance to multi-jurisdictional task forces and drug units;
- c.) Implementing this region's first identity theft initiative;
- d.) Organizing and presenting training programs for officers to learn about hidden compartments for drugs & weapons;
- e.) Helping secure over \$35,000 so that all Sheriff's Offices in the Southern District of Illinois will have computers, printers and Internet access to respond to Homeland Security issues; and
- f.) Helping plan and organize the training for the Police Officers' response to mental health subjects and also producing a state wide training video on that topic.

Chief Gordon of the Mascoutah Police Department noted that "Ron performs many tasks but in each instance, he stays connected to his roots, always pushing for anything that may assist local law enforcement in training, grants, programs etc."

Chief Scott Penny of the Fairmont City Police Department noted that most law enforcement agencies throughout this region have received the benefits of Ron's tactical training.

Mr. Shownes' law enforcement career has spanned four decades (37 years). He began his career as a street policeman in Jennings, Missouri and later became a special agent with the railroad police. After 23 years of law enforcement street experience, he became a Police Training Specialist for SILEC and later the Assistant Director of SILEC. In 2000, he began a career with the U.S. Attorney as the law enforcement coordinator.

Mr. Shownes is also the chairperson for the Illinois Police Academy Directors Defensive Driving Committee, The State of Illinois Police Standards and Training Boards Police Pursuits and Legislative Committee and the Mandatory Firearms Training Committee. He has also won hundreds of police shooting awards at the local, state and national level, he holds a record in National Police Competition and holds State titles in Missouri, Texas and Illinois in Police Pistol competition.